

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 9 are amended, claims 5-6 are canceled and new claims 12-19 are added. Support for the Amendment is found, for example, in the Examples of the specification. Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-4 and 7-19 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Election/Restriction

Applicants affirm the election to prosecute species I, identified in the Office Action dated July 15, 2005, without traverse, and that claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9 (and the new claims) read on the elected species.

II. Response to Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ohya et al (U.S. 20010023652).

Claim 1 is amended herein to recite an inkjet recording method wherein the ink is a colorless ink that does not contain a coloring agent and has substantially no absorption in a visible light region.

As the Examiner admits in the Office Action, Ohya et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the element of the ink, which is a colorless ink that does not contain a coloring agent and has substantially no absorption in a visible light region. Thus, the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by Ohya et al. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is distinguished over Ohya et al for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Response to Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohya et al in view of Sobieski (U.S. 20040071953).

Claims 5 and 6 are canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Moreover, Applicant notes that Sobieski discloses an acid precursor containing a white pigment, and that a white pigment is a coloring agent. Thus, the colorless ink of the present invention is not disclosed in Sobieski, such that the invention of the presently amended claim 1 is not obvious over Ohya in view of Sobieski.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 9 is rewritten in independent form to include all elements of original claims 1 and 2, thereby placing the claim in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

V. New Claims

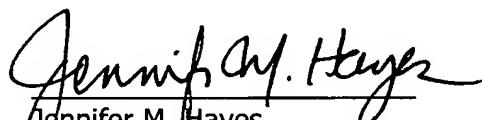
New claims 12-19 are added, which depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 or independent claim 9 and are distinguished over the art for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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